Dear Bob, 12/25/99

Many thanks for yout letter of the 20th, your good wishes for Lil and me and for your thoughtfulness in sending us some of Florida's citrus. I hope that the coming yours, more than we have collected, are good for you both.

I am afraid that my once-photographic memory is that no longer and I have no present recollection of what you sent me to read some time ago. So much has happened since then! As recently as this week my dialysis treatment had me in the hospital for the second time, this time with an incredible reaction to it injecting into me two bacteria. Not, I'm sure, deliberately, but at the same time quite improperly. I have no recollection of anything from the time I got into the car to drive home from that dialysis center until I was inside the hospital emergency room. I have a clear ecollection of laying on the gurney there for more than four hours waiting for a room to be available.

My more recent experiences with medicine and patient treatment tells me that the omnipresent greed is a real hazard. Medicare is gypped with surprising regularity in what it is billed for me. No great sums but nationally they must staggering.

But we are still here, having accumulated, between us, 173+ years and for that we are grateful.

I would like to take more time to comment on what you said about the recent civil case in Memphis in which the jury held that there had been a conspiracy to kill King and if you'd like I will do that later, when I've caught up a bit. There was, without doubt, a conspiracy to kill King. There is no doubt that at the top and in a few lower places this was well understood by the FBI, which, on the lower, working levels, understood that. I think there also is no doubt that the FBI was <u>not</u> part of that conspiracy and that the fear it would be alleged to be part of a conspiracy was one of the reasons it opposed acknowledging that there had been a conspiracy, because it was so well understood that Hoover hated King that much. Well and publicly known.

You were lucky not to have been on any of the major cases that had such political overtones.

If there remains time for you to have that welcome gift of Florida citrus not be of what I live, oranges, I'll appreciate that because, with kidney failure, oranges are the one citrus I am supposed to avoid. We both like oranges so much that for years I not only bought them from the orchard and got them picked closer to ripeness but I bought them for friends who in our time of need were so helpful. We are lucky to have such friends!

Your reference to the TWA 800 disaster reminds me that just this week I had a call from a fan who is a commercial pilot for a major airline. He thinks as so many do, that an errant missile did the deed. I got the impression that in his opinion many pilots share his belief. At least his doubts about the official story if not of that cause.

If it is too late to exclude oranges from your fine and thoughtful gift those oranges will keep and Will enjoy them, as she has in the past, and I'll continue with commercial grapefruit. (I was surprised at the difference between orchard and store tangelos. Never saw them as big or as tasty as the orchard tangelos.

One thing I take time to add on the King case is that when it counted, before Ray's trial, when they should have insisted on a trial and on all the evidence being made public, the King family and the SCLC accepted the DJ's (not the FBI's) assurances that there was no doubt about Ray's guilt and that they were considering a solution that would avoid for them the hurt of that trial and would also avoid for them what they and King opposed, capital punishment.

Many thanks to you and to Gerri. We hope you have the best of holiday seasons and many of the best of possible years to come.

Sincerely,

Harold

Harold Weisberg

Thanks for the SASE, too!